



Kejriwal Announces Six Guarantees for Goa

■ AAP National Convenor promises free electricity, ₹3,000 monthly assistance for women, family insurance and other measures at Panaji meeting

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal announced six guarantees for Goa while addressing a public meeting in Panaji, outlining a series of promises focused on household relief, women's welfare, public transport and village-level development ahead of the elections. The guarantees include free 24x7 electricity for domestic consumers,



monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000 for every woman in a family, and ₹10 lakh insurance cover for every family. Kejriwal also promised to scrap Section 39A within a month, provide free bus travel for all women and establish sports grounds in every village.

Valmiki Naik Says 'Goa First' Alliance Open To Opposition Parties

AAP Goa President Says Alliance Offers An Alternative To The BJP And Congress, Inviting Other Opposition Parties To Join The Platform

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik has said that the 'Goa First' alliance remains open to other opposition parties willing to join the platform, positioning it as an alternative

for those who do not want to be caught in what he described as the BJP-Congress "joint venture." Naik said the alliance seeks to bring together parties that share a common political alternative for Goa.

FDA Cracks Down on Food Safety Violations Across Goa

Four Food Units Ordered to Suspend Operations; 408 Kg of Meat and Unsafe Food Products Destroyed



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has intensified its food safety surveillance across Goa, inspecting restaurants and cashew outlets in Anjuna, Arpora and Calangute, while also detaining approximately 408 kg of meat transported from Delhi to Margao by train. The meat was subsequently ordered to be destroyed. As part of its ongoing surveillance drive, the FDA team inspected a total of 13 food establishments in Anjuna, Arpora and Calangute. Of these, four units were directed to suspend their operations, including a cashew seller found selling misbranded cashews without dates

and other mandatory labelling information, and three restaurants found violating hygiene norms. Three vendors were also compounded and penalised ₹10,000 each under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. During the inspections, the FDA team destroyed 30 kg of heavily coloured tandoori items and chicken lollipops, 20 kg of biryani and 10 kg of pastry items in the interest of public health. The inspection team comprised Designated Officer (North) Richard Noronha, Food Safety Officers Amit Mandrekar and Darlan Diukar, and staff member Sandeep Shelke, working under the guidance of Director Shweta Dessai.



Goa High Court Sets Aside SEC Order On Municipal Ward Delimitation

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PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has struck down the State Election Commission's notification dated September 9, 2026, concerning municipal ward delimitation, after a challenge over the failure to complete the prescribed consultation with the state government. The petition, filed by Sudeep Dhargalkar, questioned the legality of the notification, alleging that the SEC had finalised the delimitation without complying with Section 10(3) of the Goa Municipalities Act, as amended. The provision requires consultation with the government as part of the process. The petitioner argued that the commission could not treat this legal requirement as secondary while working towards a deadline fixed by the High Court. According to the plea, the notification was issued before the consultation process had been properly completed.

Rahul Gandhi's Goa visit postponed amid INDIA bloc protests over 'Vote Chori'

■ Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar says revised date for Gõy Rakhonn Yatra visit will be announced shortly

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's scheduled visit to Goa on October 12, 2026, for the Gõy Rakhonn Yatra has been postponed in view of the ongoing INDIA bloc protests against alleged 'Vote Chori' involving the RSS-BJP-ECI nexus.

In an announcement, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president



Girish Chodankar said the protests raise serious questions about electoral transparency, accountability and the integrity of the democratic

process. He said these issues are of significant national importance and require immediate attention and priority at the national level. "In light of these important developments, the scheduled Goa visit has been deferred," Chodankar stated.

Delhi Police Rejects CJP's October 10 Protest at Jantar Mantar, Cites Rule Violations

■ Permission Denied Over Short Notice, Previous Non Compliance and Restrictions Under Section 163 of BNSS

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has denied permission to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar on October 10, citing a short notice period, alleged violations of previous conditions and prevailing restrictions in the New Delhi area.

The proposed demonstration was intended to demand accountability from the Chief Election



Commissioner (CEC). The organisation had submitted an application seeking permission for the protest, but police authorities rejected the request after reviewing the circumstances surrounding the proposed gathering.

INDIA Bloc to March to Rashtrapati Bhavan on Day 4 of 'Vote Chori' Protests

■ Rahul Gandhi Intensifies Demand for CEC Gyanesh Kumar's Resignation Over Alleged Electoral Roll Irregularities

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Opposition leaders from the INDIA bloc are set to march towards Rashtrapati Bhavan on the fourth day of their protests over alleged electoral irregularities, intensifying their campaign against what they describe as "vote chori". The opposition plans to assemble at Parliament House before submitting a memorandum to President Droupadi



Murmu. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has emerged as a prominent face of the demonstrations, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities

linked to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The proposed march is expected to begin from the Central Hall, with opposition MPs planning to proceed on foot towards Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Selling Dreams, Robbing the Youth

For thousands of young people in Goa, a government job represents security, dignity and a chance to build a better future. For their families, it is often the culmination of years of sacrifice, financial struggle and hope. But when fraudsters turn that dream into a business, the consequences go far beyond lost money. It destroys trust, pushes families into financial distress, and leaves young people questioning whether honesty and hard work matter.

The bizarre incident at the Excise Commissioner's office in Panaji, where a man reportedly walked in to take charge as Additional Commissioner of Excise I and Director of Administration on the strength of a fake appointment letter, exposes the disturbing reality of Goa's cash-for-jobs menace.

According to the police, Manoj allegedly paid ₹27 lakh to a person named Ajit, who gave him an appointment order claiming he had been appointed to the senior government post. Believing the document to be genuine, Manoj reportedly began asking for files and issuing directions. It was only when suspicious staff members verified the appointment that the truth emerged. No such posting had been made. Police subsequently clarified that Manoj was a victim of the alleged fraud, and a cheating case has been registered against Ajit, who is being traced.

The incident may appear bizarre, but the circumstances are deeply troubling. How does a person come to believe that a senior government position can be secured by paying an individual ₹27 lakh? What assurances were given? Was the victim promised a direct appointment through influential contacts? These are questions the police must investigate thoroughly.

More importantly, this case raises a larger question about the vulnerability of Goa's youth to cash-for-jobs scams.

When a government job becomes a commodity, the unemployed become easy targets. Young people spend years preparing for competitive examinations, acquiring qualifications and waiting for recruitment opportunities. Many come from middle-class and financially struggling families that see a secure government job as a way out of uncertainty. When genuine opportunities appear limited or recruitment processes seem slow, the promise of a guaranteed appointment through a well-connected intermediary can become tempting.

Fraudsters understand this desperation. They exploit aspirations, manufacture credibility and convince candidates that they possess the connections necessary to secure jobs that ordinary applicants cannot obtain. Some victims may sell land, mortgage property, borrow money or exhaust their family savings to pay

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the demanded amount. When the promise collapses, they are left with debt, humiliation and little assurance of recovering their money.

The tragedy is that the victim often faces social embarrassment in addition to financial loss. Families may hesitate to complain because they fear being judged for attempting to secure a job through unofficial channels. This silence can help fraudsters continue operating and target more victims.

However, the problem cannot be addressed merely by warning young people not to fall for such schemes. The government must also examine the conditions that make these promises believable. Recruitment procedures must be transparent, vacancies must be advertised publicly, selection criteria must be clear, and appointments must be

verifiable through official channels. Any demand for money in exchange for a government job should trigger immediate scrutiny.

The latest case also highlights the need for stronger verification systems within government departments. If a person can arrive at an office with a forged appointment order and attempt to assume a senior position, departments must ensure that every appointment is authenticated before charge is handed over. A centralised verification facility would help candidates confirm whether an appointment letter is genuine without depending on intermediaries.

The investigation into the alleged fraud must go beyond locating Ajit. Police should establish how the appointment order was prepared, whether other people were involved, whether the accused claimed connections with government officials and whether other candidates may have been cheated using similar promises. The alleged money trail must be examined, and every possible effort should be made to recover the victim's money.

The government, too, must demonstrate that it is serious about protecting young people. Public awareness campaigns should explain how recruitment fraud operates, where candidates can verify appointment orders and how suspected demands for money can be reported safely. Departments must also make it clear that no private individual can guarantee a government appointment outside the prescribed recruitment process.

At the same time, young people must recognise that anyone demanding large sums of money in exchange for a government post is offering a serious warning sign, not a shortcut to success. No appointment letter should be trusted without direct confirmation from the concerned department. Goa's youth deserve employment opportunities, not people who profit from their desperation. They deserve a recruitment system in which qualifications, merit and established procedures matter more than money or alleged political connections.

The ₹27 lakh alleged fraud is not just the story of one man who believed a fake appointment letter. It is a warning about a system in which the dream of secure employment can be turned into a tool of exploitation.

The government must act decisively against those who sell jobs that do not exist. Every such scam steals more than money. It steals the confidence of young people who want to believe that their future can be built through honest effort.

A government job must be earned through a fair process, not sold to the highest bidder. Goa cannot allow the dreams of its youth to become a business for fraudsters.

EDITOR SPEAKS

DK Came to Goa, But Skipped Mhadei?

By Suraj Nandrekar

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar came to Goa as part of the Goy Rakhonn Yatra, appealing to Goans to support the Congress to protect their land, identity, environment and democratic rights. Yet, amid the political speeches and promises of solidarity, one crucial issue deserved a clear answer from him: Will Karnataka stop actions that threaten Goa's lifeline, the Mhadei river?

For a leader who heads a neighbouring state and commands considerable influence within the Congress, Shivakumar had an important opportunity to address one of Goa's most sensitive and enduring concerns. Instead, the reported appeal focused on Congress's political future, unemployment, welfare schemes and the need to defeat the BJP. These issues matter, but the question of Mhadei cannot be pushed to the margins whenever Karnataka's political leadership visits Goa.

The Mhadei River is not merely a subject of interstate politics. It is central to Goa's water security, ecological balance and the livelihoods of communities that depend on the river and its surrounding forests. Any diversion of its waters has consequences that extend beyond political boundaries. For Goa, protecting Mhadei is about safeguarding a natural resource that cannot be replaced once its ecological balance is seriously damaged.

The dispute between Goa and Karnataka over the proposed diversion of Mhadei waters has continued for years, with legal proceedings, tribunal decisions and competing claims over water use shaping the debate. Goa has consistently raised concerns over the impact of diversion on its water availability and fragile Western Ghats ecosystem. The issue requires scientific scrutiny, legal clarity and cooperation between the two states. Above all, it demands political honesty.

Shivakumar's visit offered an opportunity to demonstrate that concern for Goa's future extends beyond election slogans. If the Congress wants Goa to trust its leadership, why could he not give a clear assurance that Karnataka would respect the applicable legal framework and cooperate in protecting the river's ecological integrity?

Such an assurance would not require him to prejudge judicial proceedings or make promises beyond his authority. It would simply demonstrate that the interests of Goa would not be sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. He could have committed to constructive dialogue, transparency over proposed works and respect for all binding legal and regulatory decisions.

Instead, Goans were left without a clear public commitment on the very issue that has repeatedly strained relations between the two states.

This omission becomes more significant because Shivakumar spoke about environmental concerns and described Karnataka as a neighbour that would stand with Goa in a spirit of brotherhood. Brotherhood, however, must be demonstrated through action. It cannot mean asking Goans to support the Congress while remaining silent on a dispute that directly affects their future.

The Congress cannot expect its Goy Rakhonn Yatra to be taken seriously merely by invoking Goa's identity and promising to protect its land and environment. If the party claims to be the guardian of Goa's interests, it must be willing to confront difficult questions, including those involving leaders of its own political organisation in neighbouring states.

This is not about demanding that Shivakumar surrender Karnataka's legitimate interests. Both states have concerns regarding water resources, and those concerns must be addressed through lawful and scientific processes. But cooperation cannot be one-sided, and electoral support cannot be sought without acknowledging the anxieties of the people whose votes are being courted. The BJP government in Goa must also answer for its handling of the Mhadei dispute. It cannot escape scrutiny by pointing to the silence of the Congress leadership. Protecting the river is a responsibility that rests with every government and political party claiming to act in Goa's interest. The Goy Rakhonn Yatra seeks to project Congress as a force for protecting Goa's future. But that future depends on more than employment promises, welfare schemes and electoral calculations. It depends on the security of Goa's water, forests and natural resources. Shivakumar had the opportunity to send a strong message of reassurance to Goans. He should have used it. Until political leaders make their position on Mhadei clear, their promises to protect Goa's identity and environment will remain incomplete.

High Court Seeks Answers From Goa Government Over Proposed Purchase Of Shivaji Statue Site

■ Chief Secretary Given October 20 Deadline To Explain Land Acquisition Proposal As Court Questions Delay In Removing Encroachment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has sought a detailed explanation from the Goa government over its proposal to acquire land occupied by an unauthorised statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Headland Sada, Vasco, questioning why the authorities are considering a purchase instead of acting on



an existing order to clear the site. During the proceedings, the court expressed serious reservations about the administration's approach and observed that there appeared, at the preliminary stage, to be a "conspiracy to

violate the order". It also questioned whether public money could legitimately be spent to acquire property in circumstances involving an alleged unauthorised occupation. The Chief Secretary has been directed to file an affidavit by October 20, 2026, setting out the legal grounds, administrative decisions and circumstances that led to the proposed acquisition

of the disputed land from the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA). The case concerns a 178-square-metre plot owned by the MPA at Headland Sada junction. A statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, accompanied by masonry and beautification works, was installed on the property without the port authority's permission in February 2026.



North Goa NCORD Meeting Reviews Drug Seizures And Anti-Drug Measures

■ Officials Review Enforcement Efforts, Awareness Initiatives And Inter-Departmental Coordination To Curb Drug Abuse

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The monthly Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) meeting was convened in North Goa to review drug seizures, awareness initiatives undertaken by various departments and measures being implemented to curb drug abuse. The meeting focused on strengthening enforcement efforts, improving public awareness and enhancing coordination

among departments to tackle the drug menace. Officials emphasised the need for continued collaborative efforts to prevent drug abuse, intensify awareness campaigns and ensure effective implementation of measures aimed at eradicating the drug menace from society. The meeting reiterated the importance of a coordinated approach involving various departments to work towards building a drug-free society.



Girish Chodankar appoints seven new Block Congress presidents in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), under the leadership of its president Girish Chodankar, has appointed seven new Block Congress presidents as part of its efforts to strengthen the party's organisational structure and expand its grassroots presence across Goa. As per the order issued by Chodankar on October 8, the following appointments have been made: 1. Harichandra Mankar – Valpoi 2. Suryakant P. Gawade – Sankhali 3. Anand Baidkar – Mapusa 4. Edwin Benny Vaz – St. Cruz 5. Sanjay Narayan Desai – Curchorem 6. Savio Gomes – Cuncolim 7. Yogesh Nagvekar – Fatorda The appointments are aimed at strengthening the Congress organisation at the block level and improving coordination among party workers. The newly appointed presidents are expected to focus on expanding public outreach, addressing local issues and mobilising people on matters concerning Goa and its residents.

Supreme Court Sends Goa Weightlifting Coach Recruitment Dispute Back To High Court

■ Vaishnavi Ugadekar To Be Heard In Fresh Proceedings After Apex Court Finds She Was Excluded From Earlier Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Supreme Court has overturned a 2025 High Court ruling linked to the recruitment of a Weightlifting Coach (Grade IV) in Goa, directing a fresh hearing after finding that candidate Vaishnavi S. Ugadekar was not given an opportunity to participate in the earlier proceedings. The apex court has instructed the High Court



of Bombay at Goa to bring Ugadekar on record as a party and reconsider the dispute after hearing both candidates competing for the post. The legal dispute originated during the Goa government's recruitment process for the coaching position. Ugadekar raised

objections regarding the fairness of the selection procedure and submitted a complaint to the appropriate state government authority. Following the complaint, the authority ordered the selection tests to be held again. The rival candidate challenged this decision before the High Court. On June 23, 2025, the High Court decided the petition without including Ugadekar in the case.

CM Sawant Backs Next-Gen GST Reforms To Boost Ease Of Doing Business

■ Goa Chief Minister Attends 57th GST Council Meeting, Highlights Trust-Based, Technology-Driven Tax System To Simplify Compliance And Support Business Growth

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has backed the Next-Generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, highlighting their focus on improving ease of doing business through simplified compliance, technology-driven processes and a trust-based tax administration.

Sawant attended the 57th meeting of the GST



Council, chaired by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, state finance ministers and senior officials.

Sharing his views on the meeting, Sawant said the outcomes of the discussions carry forward the Next-Gen GST reform agenda, with a clear emphasis on making the tax framework more efficient and business-

friendly.

The reform approach focuses on key areas, including enforcement, compliance and tax credit, while promoting greater use of technology in GST administration. The objective is to reduce compliance-related difficulties and allow businesses to devote greater attention to expansion and growth.

The discussions also underline the importance of building a tax system

based on trust between taxpayers and the administration, while maintaining effective enforcement and ensuring compliance with GST provisions.

Sawant described the developments as another step towards strengthening ease of doing business, with reforms aimed at supporting enterprises and improving the overall efficiency of the GST framework.

Man dies after car rams into Panaji market bus stop

■ Driver booked for rash and negligent driving, allegedly under the influence of alcohol

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A man identified as Manoj died after a Maruti Suzuki Baleno car allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner rammed into an art structure, a bus stop and a parked Hero Pleasure scooter near the Panaji Market bus stop in the early hours of October 7, 2026.

According to the complaint lodged by Head Constable Gurudas B. Ghadi (HC-5340) of



Panaji Police Station, the incident occurred at around 3.20 am when the accused, Manjeet Singh (28), a resident of Shuklaganj, Kanpur,

Uttar Pradesh, was proceeding from Miramar towards Panaji Ferry Point in a car bearing registration number GA-06-F-4401.

The driver allegedly failed to exercise proper care and caution, causing the vehicle to veer off the road and crash into the art structure, bus stop and a Hero Pleasure scooter bearing registration number GA-08-Q-7629.

The impact caused grievous injuries to Manoj, who was sleeping near the art structure. He later succumbed to his injuries.

Panaji Police registered a case under Sections 281 and 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Section 185 pertains to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The investigation is being conducted by PSI Deepesh Shetkar.



Four pedestrians injured after car hits them at Margao junction

■ Rash driving alleged near Kohinoor Junction; vehicle also collides with another moving car

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Four pedestrians were injured after a car allegedly dashed against four pedestrians identified as Lilavati Tirki, Phulmani Kumari and Anuj Tirki, all residents of Uttorda, Mormugao, and Francis Britto, a resident of Varca, Salcete. The car further collided with another moving vehicle, causing damage to it. The four pedestrians sustained injuries in the incident. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Dilkush Velip of Margao Town Police Station.

Junction in Margao.

On reaching the junction, the car allegedly dashed against four pedestrians identified as Lilavati Tirki, Phulmani Kumari and Anuj Tirki, all residents of Uttorda, Mormugao, and Francis Britto, a resident of Varca, Salcete. The car further collided with another moving vehicle, causing damage to it. The four pedestrians sustained injuries in the incident. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Dilkush Velip of Margao Town Police Station.



Russian national booked for assaulting policewomen in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered an offence against a Russian national, Elena Pletneva, for allegedly assaulting two policewomen while they were discharging their lawful duties at Panaji Police Station on October 7, 2026. According to the complaint lodged by a 25-year-old policewoman, a lady police constable attached to Panaji Police Station, the incident occurred at around 7 pm on the station premises in Panaji, Tiswadi. The accused allegedly used criminal force and assaulted the complainant and another lady police constable while they were performing their official duties, thereby allegedly deterring public servants from discharging their lawful responsibilities. Panaji Police registered a case under Sections 132 and 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. LPSI Harshal Raikar of Panaji Police Station is investigating the case. A notice has been issued to the accused.

Girl allegedly abducted from Curti, Ponda

■ Police register complaint after a Ponda resident reports daughter missing; PSI Sushant Gaonkar takes up investigation

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered a complaint following the alleged abduction of a girl from Zingdimol, Curti, Ponda, on October 7, 2026.

According to the complaint lodged by a resident of Ponda, originally from Karnataka, some unknown person or persons allegedly abducted the complainant's daughter before 9 pm on October 7



at Zingdimol, Curti, Ponda.

Further investigation into the case is being

carried out by PSI Sushant Gaonkar of Ponda Police Station.

Man held with MDMA and cocaine worth ₹62,000 in Canacona

■ Police seize 2 grams of MDMA and 2.8 grams of cocaine during a narcotics raid at Tarir Rajbag; further investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona Police seized narcotic substances worth approximately ₹62,000 and apprehended a man during a raid at Tarir Rajbag, Canacona, late on October 7 and in the early hours of October 8.

According to a complaint lodged by PSI Ajit Velip of Canacona Police Station, the raid was conducted between



10.05 pm on October 7 and 12.20 am on October 8, 2026. During

the operation, the police allegedly caught Rashmit Naik Shristhal, a native

of Karwar, Karnataka, in possession of 2 grams of MDMA valued at

₹20,000 and 2.8 grams of cocaine valued at ₹42,000. The total value of the seized narcotic substances is estimated at ₹62,000. According to the complaint, the accused had allegedly brought the drugs to deliver them to prospective customers.

Further investigation in the case is being carried out by PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station.

D.K. Shivakumar Urges Goans to Back Congress to Protect Goa's Future and Democratic Rights

■ Girish Chodankar Predicts Congress Victory in Goa in 2027 and Rahul Gandhi's Leadership at the National Level in 2029

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday appealed to the people of Goa to support the Congress to protect their democratic rights, safeguard the State's identity and secure a better future, as he participated in the 17th day of the Goy Rakhonn Yatra at Cortalim.

Addressing Congress leaders, workers and local



residents, Shivakumar said the party stood for

inclusive development and would continue to fight for the rights and welfare of the people. With the 2027 Goa Assembly elections approaching, he urged voters to make an informed choice and support the Congress.

"I have a special love for Goa and its people, which is why I have come here with great confidence. The year 2027 will be an election year. The history of the

Congress is the history of India's development. Congress is a party that takes everyone along and stands with people in their happiness and sorrow. Therefore, support Congress to protect your democratic rights," he said.

Shivakumar assured the people of Goa that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and he would stand with them.



South Goa DEO reviews election preparedness, voter enrolment camp arrangements

■ Egna Cleetus directs EROs to expedite voter data verification, strengthen field-level coordination and ensure compliance with ECI guidelines

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: District Election Officer (DEO), South Goa, Ms. Egna Cleetus, IAS, reviewed election preparedness and the progress of various election-related activities during a video conference with Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). The meeting also focused on preparations for Special Camps on Voter Enrolment to be conducted across the district.

During the review, the DEO directed EROs to hold physical meetings with Sector Officers and Sector Police Officers within two days to brief them on their duties and responsibilities and strengthen coordination at the field level. They were also instructed to

complete and submit certificates regarding the handing over of VM-1 to Sector Officers.

The locations of Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs), which have been identified by the EROs, were reviewed, with directions to communicate the details to the DEO's office shortly. EROs were also asked to update and submit accurate data on Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) available at polling stations.

The identification of critical and vulnerable polling stations and expenditure-sensitive Assembly constituencies was reviewed, with emphasis on strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI).



Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar Visits Cylinder Blast Victims, Assures Relief and Safety Measures

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar visited the site of a devastating LPG cylinder explosion in New Vaddem on Thursday morning, following an incident that left a mother and her daughter critically injured and caused extensive structural damage to their rented residence. Expressing deep shock over the incident, Salkar assured the affected family that financial assistance would be arranged through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The assistance is expected to help cover the victims' medical expenses and the cost of reconstructing the damaged property. Both victims, who sustained critical burn and impact injuries, were shifted to Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, for specialised treatment. Salkar personally contacted senior doctors and hospital authorities, urging them to provide all necessary medical facilities and ensure round-the-clock monitoring to support their recovery.

FDA to launch special drive against unlicensed caterers and unregistered party halls

■ Operators given three weeks to obtain FSSAI licences; violations may attract legal action and penalties of up to ₹10 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Goa, will launch a special drive to identify and take action against unlicensed caterers and unregistered party halls across the state. The FDA has directed all caterers and party hall owners to approach its office or apply for the requisite licence through the FSSAI's online



portal, foscoss.fssai.gov.in, within the next three weeks. Those requiring assistance can approach the FDA help desk. The department has clarified that catering includes the preparation, storage, serving or transportation

of food for groups of people, whether at small gatherings of 10 to 25 persons or at larger ceremonies, celebrations, religious functions and institutional events. Individuals and entities preparing and serving food or snacks at parties and other events also fall under this category. All caterers have been instructed to obtain a mandatory licence under the Food Safety.

Sankalp Manthan's Ponda and Dharbandora Cluster Fuels Youth Innovation

■ Students Explore Entrepreneurship, Artificial Intelligence and Innovation at Cluster Interaction in Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: As part of the ongoing Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, the Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C) and the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) hosted the Ponda and Dharbandora cluster interaction for Sankalp Manthan at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda. The



initiative marks the second phase of a statewide youth empowerment drive aimed at nurturing problem-solving skills, entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence

(AI) readiness among college students across Goa. The event was attended by Priol MLA Govind Gaude, Director of Higher Education Bhushan Savaikar, Joint

Director of DITE&C Dr. Milind Sakhardande, DHE Programme Director Dr. Niyan Marchon and SITPC CEO D.S. Prashant. Students from colleges across Ponda and Dharbandora gained industry insights through a panel discussion titled *Architects of Viksit Bharat 2047: Driving India's Vision Through Youth Innovation*.

Moderated by Vaibhavi Sawant, founder of BitMento, the panel

featured Bhushan Savaikar, Director of Higher Education; Shawn Kenneth Fernandes, founder and CEO of Fluxatic Global and BridgeAura Academy; Sumukh Kamat, founder of The Energy Footprint; Damodar Patnekar, founder of Bodhami; Ujwala Nhivekar, co-founder of TAWAI Studio; and Mohiet Hastwala, founder of MH Institute of Learning.

GST Council Meet: Nirmala Sitharaman Announces Major Reforms, Arrest Powers to Go, Faster Refunds from April 2027

■ The 57th GST Council meeting focused on simplifying tax procedures rather than changing rates, with reforms aimed at reducing compliance costs, easing business operations and making enforcement more transparent

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has approved a wide-ranging package of procedural reforms aimed at making India's indirect tax system simpler and more predictable for businesses and taxpayers. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the decisions after chairing the Council's 57th meeting in New Delhi on October 8.

The meeting focused on improving the day-to-day functioning of GST, including registration, refunds, input tax credit, litigation and the movement of goods between states. No GST rate changes were announced, with the Council instead prioritising administrative reforms following the previous round of rate rationalisation.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Sitharaman said the latest decisions were centred on process improvements and a trust-based approach to tax administration. She also announced that GST rate changes would be considered once a year, with decisions intended to take effect from April 1, providing businesses with greater predictability in tax planning.

The Finance Minister said the reforms were designed to reduce unnecessary intervention by tax officials, speed up refunds and improve ease of doing business. The recommendations are scheduled to be implemented from April 1, 2027, subject to the required legal and administrative steps.

GST arrest powers to be removed



One of the most significant recommendations is the removal of arrest powers under GST. The threshold for criminal prosecution will be raised from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore, while minimum punishment provisions will be removed. Courts will have discretion to decide whether a case warrants a fine, imprisonment or both.

The general penalty applicable where no specific penalty is prescribed will also be reduced from ₹25,000 to ₹10,000. The Council has sought to ensure that routine delays and compliance mistakes are dealt with through proportionate measures rather than unnecessarily severe action.

Faster refunds and simpler registration

The Council has recommended reducing the period for acknowledging refund applications from 15 days to 10 days. Sitharaman said 90 per cent of refunds are expected to be issued within three working days, helping

businesses access funds more quickly and improve working capital.

Routine changes to GST registration details are also set to become easier through automatic processing. Small sellers operating through e-commerce platforms will benefit from a simplified registration mechanism, allowing them to serve customers across states without having to establish a place of business in every state, subject to the applicable conditions.

Fewer arbitrary checks on goods in transit

The reforms also seek to make the movement of goods across state borders smoother. Inspections, detention and seizure would generally be restricted to authorised officers of the supplier state or destination state. Interception would require specific intelligence and authorisation at the prescribed senior level, reducing arbitrary checks during transportation.

The Council has also recommended common standards for GST notices

and proceedings. No notice is proposed where the amount involved is ₹10,000 or less.

Input tax credit and other proposals

The Council discussed concerns involving genuine buyers who may lose input tax credit because of a supplier's non-compliance. A committee of officers will examine the issue and submit its findings within three months before the matter returns to the Council.

Other measures include widening eligibility for input tax credit and refunds, facilitating exports of services, improving compliance procedures and approving in principle an optional scheme for small consumer-facing businesses with turnover of up to ₹5 crore.

The recommendations mark a shift towards a more technology-driven and taxpayer-friendly GST system, with the government aiming to reduce disputes, improve transparency and make compliance less burdensome.

"Is Ambani the Real Boss of India?" Elon Musk Questions Starlink Licence Delay

■ Musk Challenges Government Over Approval Process as Centre Rejects Claims of Regulatory Bias

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Elon Musk has questioned why Starlink has not yet received final approval to launch its satellite internet services in India, despite what he describes as five years of compliance with Indian laws and regulatory requirements. The SpaceX chief also raised questions about the influence of billionaire Mukesh Ambani amid an ongoing dispute over the company's entry into the Indian market.

In a post on X, Musk claimed that Starlink had complied with every government requirement and questioned the continued delay in obtaining a licence. He also asked whether Ambani was the "real boss" of India, intensifying the public debate over competition in the country's telecommunications sector. The controversy began after Musk alleged that certain powerful business interests were obstructing Starlink's entry into India to protect their market positions. He described the alleged obstruction as harmful to Indian consumers, although the claims have not been independently established.

The Ministry of Communications rejected allegations that India's regulatory

framework discriminates against satellite internet providers. The government maintained that it follows a fair and non-discriminatory authorisation process for telecommunications services, including satellite communications.

According to the ministry, licences have been granted to three companies operating in the global mobile personal communications by satellite category: Starlink, Bharti backed Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications, a subsidiary of Jio Platforms.

However, obtaining a licence does not automatically permit companies to begin commercial operations. The ministry said all three providers must demonstrate compliance with applicable security conditions designed to protect users and their data. Security assessments for all three companies are currently underway.

Once the required assessments are completed, the companies can seek spectrum allocation, which is necessary to provide their services.

The government argued that all three operators are at broadly the same stage of the regulatory process, rejecting suggestions that Starlink is being singled out.



India to Release AI Regulation Consultation Paper Within a Month, Says Ashwini Vaishnaw

■ Government Framework to Focus on AI Safety, Deepfakes, Skilling and Human Centred Innovation

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian government will release a consultation paper on artificial intelligence (AI) within a month, inviting public feedback on the technology's growing impact and the need for appropriate safeguards. Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini



Vaishnaw said the proposed framework would focus on safety, a human first approach, skill development and

ensuring that no section of society is left behind. The announcement came during the launch of a report by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the World Bank examining the potential of artificial intelligence. The consultation paper is

expected to help shape future regulatory measures, with the government exploring technological and legal solutions to address emerging challenges. Vaishnaw highlighted the growing risks associated with deepfakes, warning that increasingly convincing AI generated content could mislead people and influence public perceptions.



'Congress Doesn't Know Left or Right': Scindia Targets Rahul Gandhi Over Starlink Licence Row

■ The Union Minister says India's satellite internet companies must complete security clearances and regulatory formalities before launching commercial services.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has criticised the Congress over its position on satellite internet licensing, accusing the party of inconsistency following the exchange between Rahul Gandhi and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk over Starlink's entry into the Indian market. "I don't think they themselves know whether they are going left or right," Scindia said, questioning the Congress's response to the government's handling of satellite communication licences. The minister said the opposition had initially objected to a particular company receiving a licence but was now

questioning why the same company had not been allowed to begin commercial operations. He maintained that the government's approach remained consistent and that the same regulatory framework applied to all three licensed satellite communication companies. Scindia explained that commercial services could begin only after the required regulatory procedures were completed. Spectrum assignment would follow the government's decision on the revenue-based charging mechanism, while individual companies would have to meet the prescribed security conditions before commencing operations.



Asim Munir's Reported Plan to Divide Pakistan Into Smaller Provinces Raises Fears of Military Control

Team Goemkarponn

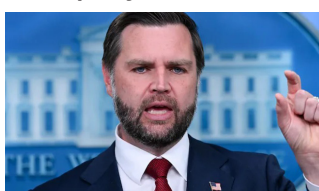
NEW DELHI: Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, is reportedly considering a major restructuring of the country's administrative map, with a proposal to divide its four existing provinces into a larger number of smaller units. The reported plan has triggered concerns that the move could consolidate military influence rather than improve governance. Pakistan currently has four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The proposed restructuring could create 12, 15 or potentially even 160 smaller administrative units, according to a report published by The Economist. Supporters of smaller administrative units could argue that the change would make governance more efficient by bringing public services and decision making closer to local communities. Pakistan's provinces vary considerably in population and geographical size, presenting different administrative challenges.

'Unwarranted': India Rebukes JD Vance Over 'Indentured Servants' Remark on Foreign Workers

■ New Delhi says Indian professionals contribute significantly to US innovation and economic growth, warning that the suspension of the PERM programme could affect green card applications of eligible employees.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has criticised US Vice President JD Vance for describing foreign workers as "indentured servants", calling his remarks unwarranted and offensive. The Ministry of External Affairs said Indian professionals in the United States are highly skilled contributors



who support innovation, research, productivity and economic growth. The response follows the US decision to suspend participation by eight major technology companies in the Permanent Labour

Certification programme, commonly known as PERM. The programme is an important step in the employer-sponsored green card process and is used to establish whether qualified American workers are available for a particular position. The affected companies include Microsoft, Tata, Wipro, Infosys, Adobe, Cognizant, HCL and Capgemini.

BJP Leads in Assam and Bengal, Vijay's TVK Ahead in Tamil Nadu Bypolls

■ TVK leads in Madurantakam and Dharapuram, while the BJP is ahead in Nandigram, Rejinagar and Assam's Nagaon Lok Sabha constituency. AINRC has retained Thattanchavady in Puducherry.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Counting of votes in by-elections across Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Puducherry and Assam has produced significant early trends, with Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leading in two Tamil Nadu Assembly constituencies and the BJP ahead in two seats in West Bengal and the Nagaon Lok Sabha



contest in Assam. The first result was declared in Puducherry, where the All India NR Congress (AINRC) retained

the Thattanchavady Assembly constituency. Its candidate, Ashok Anand, defeated Congress rival E Vinayagam by more than 8,000 votes.

The bypolls are being closely watched for their potential political implications, particularly as the parties assess their support following the recent Assembly elections. Vijay's TVK leads in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, TVK has taken the lead in Madurantakam and Dharapuram, moving ahead of the AIADMK and DMK in the early trends.

PM Modi Hails GST Reforms, Says Decriminalisation Will Reduce Compliance Costs

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed a fresh set of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms approved by the GST Council, saying the proposed changes will simplify compliance, improve transparency and make the tax system more taxpayer friendly. The recommendations were approved at the 57th GST Council meeting held in New Delhi on October 8, 2026. The reforms cover enforcement, prosecution, penalties, notices, refunds.

Samir Zeljkovic's Goal Seals 22nd IFA Shield Title for Mohun Bagan Against East Bengal

■ Mariners Win Kolkata Derby 1-0 to Complete Historic CFL and IFA Shield Double After 50 Years

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Mohun Bagan Super Giant defeated arch-rivals East Bengal 1-0 to retain the IFA Shield title, with Samir Zeljkovic scoring the decisive goal in a fiercely contested Kolkata Derby at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. Bosnian midfielder Zeljkovic struck in the 45th minute to secure Mohun Bagan's 22nd IFA Shield title. The victory also completed a



memorable season for the Mariners, who won both the Calcutta Football League (CFL) and the IFA Shield for the first time since 1976. The decisive moment

arrived just before half-time when Zeljkovic controlled a chipped pass from Sahal Abdul Samad on his chest before calmly slotting the ball past the East Bengal goalkeeper. His composed

finish proved enough to separate the two sides in a closely fought encounter. Neither team produced a particularly fluent attacking display, but Mohun Bagan looked more organised and composed than they had during their earlier Durand Cup final meeting, when East Bengal secured a convincing 4-1 victory. East Bengal attempted to find an equaliser after the break but struggled to break through Mohun Bagan's defensive organisation.



Aryan Narvekar Named Captain of Goa U-23 Squad for Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite

■ Goa Cricket Association Announces 17 Member Squad for the Upcoming Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Aryan Narvekar has been appointed captain of the Goa Under-23 men's cricket team for the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite, with the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) announcing a 17 member squad for the tournament. Narvekar will lead a squad featuring a mix of young cricketers looking to represent Goa in the prestigious age group competition. The team includes Shaantanu Nevagi, Sarthak Bhike, Aman Dhooper, Dishank Misquin, Jeevan Kumar Chittem, Anuj Yadav, Shiven Borkar, Rudresh Sharma, Fardin Khan, Rahul Vishwakarma, Pundalik Naik, Deep Kasvankar, Piyush Devidas, Atharv

Bhandari, Devan Kumar Chittem and Yash Gadekar. The selection marks an important opportunity for the young players to demonstrate their skills and contribute to Goa's campaign in the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite. Under Narvekar's leadership, the squad will aim to put up a strong performance in the competition. The Goa Cricket Association's leadership has extended its best wishes to the team ahead of the tournament. GCA President Mahesh Desai, Secretary Tulshidas Shetye, Treasurer Sayed Abdul Majid and Vice President Paresh Phadte, along with the entire managing committee, conveyed their wishes to the players for a successful campaign.



Sitanshu Kotak Explains Bhuvneshwar Kumar's India Recall After Four-Year Wait

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has explained the factors behind Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return to the national T20I team after a four year absence, highlighting the fast bowler's consistent performances in the Indian Premier League and his international experience. Bhuvneshwar last represented India during the T20I series against New Zealand in November 2022. His impressive performances for Royal Challengers Bengaluru over the past two IPL seasons have strengthened his case for a national comeback. The experienced pacer claimed 45 wickets across the 2025 and 2026 IPL seasons, taking 17 wickets in 2025 and 28 in 2026. His contributions played an important role in Bengaluru's successive IPL title winning campaigns. Kotak pointed to the importance of experience, particularly when India have to manage bowling responsibilities without key senior players.

Goa Fall 14 Runs Short Against Pondicherry in Vinoo Mankad Trophy Elite

■ Mohit Yadav's Unbeaten 47 Goes in Vain as Goa Lose U-19 Tournament Opener

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered a narrow 14 run defeat against Pondicherry in their opening match of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy Elite Under-19 tournament at the Sector 16 Cricket Stadium in Chandigarh.

After winning the toss and electing to bowl, Goa bowled out Pondicherry for 214 in 48.4 overs. However, Goa's batting lineup was dismissed for 200 in 47.4 overs while chasing a target of 215.



Goa endured a difficult start to their chase, losing three wickets for just 29 runs. Captain Aaradhya Goyal led the recovery with a fighting 41, building partnerships to keep his team in contention. Afrid contributed 20 runs, while Mihir Kudalkar added 24 and Mohammed Uzair

scored 22 to provide valuable support.

Mohit Yadav kept Goa's hopes alive with an unbeaten 47 off just 40 deliveries. Despite his late resistance, Goa could not bridge the gap as Pondicherry's bowlers maintained their pressure in the closing stages. Srijan Sinhasan and Badal Rawat were the standout performers with three wickets each. S. Sri Ganesan and Aahil Kachru picked up two wickets apiece.

PCCE Verna Clinch Goa University Men's Tennis Championship 2026-27 After Thrilling Final

■ Punit Fadte Shines as Padre Conceicao College of Engineering Defeat Don Bosco College of Engineering 2-1

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Padre Conceicao College of Engineering (PCCE), Verna, emerged champions of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Men's Tennis Championship 2026-27 after defeating Don Bosco College of Engineering, Fatorda, 2-1 in an exciting final at the Fatorda Sports Complex tennis courts in Margao on October 6



and 7.

PCCE secured the title through a strong team performance, with Punit Fadte playing a crucial role in the singles and deciding doubles

matches. The Verna-based college started the final on a winning note as Fadte defeated Dhruv Birje of Don Bosco College of Engineering 6-1 in the first singles.



Don Bosco fought back in the second singles, with Anuj Vernekar defeating Brullino Fernandes of PCCE 6-4 to level the contest at 1-1. The championship was then

decided in the doubles match, where Fadte and Fernandes combined effectively to defeat Vernekar and Flynn Gomes 6-2, sealing the title for PCCE. Fadte's outstanding performance throughout the tournament earned him the Best Player of the Tournament award for the second consecutive year, underlining his consistency and contribution to the college's success.